

South Charleston, West Virginia, he has devoted his efforts to researching and applying catalysts to create new production methods and help improve existing industrial processes. His invention and implementation of nine generations of ethylene epoxidation catalysts led to his recognition by the American Chemical Society. The catalysts that Dr. Bhasin invented allow for the more efficient conversion of ethylene epoxidation to ethylene oxide and ethylene glycol, which are components in products such as polyester and anti-freeze. Billions of pounds of ethylene epoxidation are used each year so increasing the conversion efficiency has allowed Union Carbide to remain one of the world leaders in this market as well as save energy and reduce by-products. This is obviously a win for Union Carbide, the environment and the state of West Virginia.

Again I would like to take this opportunity to publically recognize and congratulate Dr. Bhasin for this great accolade and wish him continued success in his future endeavors.●

WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC SAFETY ACT OF 1998

● Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I am here today to talk about some good news for a change. I want to talk about the Wireless Communications and Public Safety Act of 1998 that Senator McCAIN is introducing, and I am cosponsoring. The purpose of this legislation is to link some of the amazing innovations in wireless technology to 9-1-1 and emergency response professionals.

All kinds of technologies exist today that can greatly reduce response time to emergencies and help victims get the right kind of medical attention quickly. But right now these technologies are not connected in ways that we can use them for emergencies. That's why this effort to upgrade our 9-1-1 systems across the nation is so important and necessary.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has conducted studies showing that crash-to-care time for fatal accidents is about a half hour in urban areas. In rural areas, which covers most of my home state of Montana, that crash-to-care time almost doubles. On average, it takes just shy of an hour to get emergency attention to crash victims in rural areas. Almost half of the serious crash victims who do not receive care in that first hour die at the scene of the accident. That's a scary statistic. But it doesn't have to continue that way.

Drew Dawson, who is the Director of the Montana Emergency Medical Services Bureau and president of the National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Directors, strongly supports this legislation. He tells me that the bill will help bring better wireless 9-1-1 coverage to Montana and will enhance our statewide Trauma Care System. Mr. Dawson believes this legislation will help him and his emer-

gency folks do their job better, which means it will help them save more lives than they already do.

Montana unfortunately has a high motor vehicle crash death rate. Part of this bill promotes research on something called Automatic Crash Notification technology or ACN as Mr. Dawson and the trauma and emergency professionals call it. ACN technology takes the sensors in cars, such as airbag sensors and speed sensors, and links them to a wireless phone and a location device. When an ACN-equipped car in a remote area of Montana crashes, the car automatically dials 9-1-1. Not only does the car dial 9-1-1 but it transmits data telling the emergency operator where exactly the crash victim is and the likelihood of the victim's injuries. This ACN system also opens up a voice channel enabling the emergency operator to speak to the crash victim.

ACN technology comes into effect only seconds after the crash. It can be rigged so that the emergency operator gets the crash information as well as the nearest trauma center. ACN would eliminate many drawn out search and rescues that usually have to take place.

In these crash situations, time is of the essence. The emergency medical professionals refer to the first hour after a crash as the "Golden Hour." They say if they can get to victims in that first hour, then they have a good chance of limiting the severity of the injuries. Once the clock ticks over an hour, the chances of medical miracles lessen more and more. Reducing response time means the difference between life and death.

I have to say a word about all of the good work that folks like Drew Dawson in Montana and other emergency professionals do all over the country. The United States has the most skilled and dedicated group of medical and emergency professionals in the world. We just need to give them better tools. There is technology out there that can help these professionals and that can help all of us citizens, if, God forbid, we ever find ourselves in an emergency situation needing this kind of help. The Wireless Communications and Public Safety Act of 1998 will help all of us and will make our emergency services even better than they are today.

Mr. President, I hope all of my colleagues will join me and help pass this important legislation.●

RECOGNIZING THE CITIZENS AGAINST LAWSUIT ABUSE (CALA)

● Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I wish to recognize today the efforts of a group of West Virginia citizens who have joined together to address an important issue affecting our state and the nation. These individuals, who have formed Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse (CALA), are working to educate the public about how excesses in our civil justice system can be harmful.

CALA volunteer spokespersons are speaking out about how lawsuit abuse

means people pay through higher prices for consumer products, higher medical expenses, higher taxes and lost business expansion and product development. I should note that my own concerns relate to abuse of the system which comes in the form of frivolous suits and inappropriate delays—not legitimate use of our tort system.

CALA reports that recent studies of liability costs have found that our State has a high lawsuit and liability cost relative to our economic output measured as gross state product. As another example of the effect of lawsuit abuse, CALA's own survey of all West Virginia municipalities last year found an estimated annual lawsuit-related cost for our municipal taxpayers to be more than \$9 million. Nationally, it has been estimated that the costs of our civil justice system averages \$1200 per person per year.

Legal reform of any kind is not a simple issue. The legal system is essential to provide justice to every American. But that does not mean that the status quo is perfect. When lawsuits and the courts can be used in excess or result in imposing costs without reason on the other parties, from individuals to not-for-profit agencies to businesses, the system should be reviewed and reformed if possible.

I often have spoken about the problems of our product liability system. We see the terrible consequences of our country's confusing patchwork, slow, and often unfair system of product liability rules that need to be properly and fairly reformed.

The leaders of West Virginia's CALA movement should be commended here today. Volunteers such as Robert Mauk of Huntington; Jim Thomas, Sid Davis and Mac McJunkin of Charleston; Cuz Blake of Bridgeport; Phyllis Garner of Clarksburg; Rick Pruitte of Fairmont; and Sam Chico of Morgantown are all working hard to ensure that our State has a strong, fair and effective civil justice system that will serve all West Virginians and grow our economy and job base. These people give their time to speak to community groups, organize educational activities and distribute materials to help us all be conscious of lawsuit costs and excesses of the system.

Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse groups have declared September 21 through 26 to be "Lawsuit Abuse Awareness Week" in West Virginia. I want to commend these citizens for their dedication and commitment and to acknowledge this week as time of public awareness on the serious issues associated with lawsuit abuse.●

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on the Executive Calendar: Nos. 824